

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 18, 2004 rejected claims 1, 4-13, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that these claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 24-25 are allowable over the prior art of record.

By this paper, claims 1, 4-13, and 15-17 are cancelled. However, the cancellation of the claims 1, 4-13, and 15-17 should not be construed as an acquiescence, on the part of the Applicant, that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to convey that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the rejections of the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as well as the purported teaching and prior art status of any and all of the cited references at any appropriate time. Applicants further reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a separate application.

As only allowable claims 24-35 are currently pending, reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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